

CCM 2013 Testimony

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM opposes House Bill 6522 "An Act Concerning the Availability and Use of Certain Devices to Administer Antiepileptic Medication"

HB 6522 would require municipal ambulances and rescue vehicles to maintain one diazepam antiepileptic medical delivery device aboard each vehicle, in a location known to any crew members aboard the vehicle and mandate that they are trained in its use. While well meaning this bill has raised numerous concerns among municipal officials.

Valeant Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Diazepam clearly states on their website:

"Diazepam rectal gel should only be administered by caregivers who, in the opinion of the prescribing physician, (1) can identify the difference between cluster of seizures (and/or the events that precipitate the onset of seizures) from ordinary seizure activity, (2) are judged to be able to use product as instructed, (3) understand which seizures may or may not be treated with diazepam rectal gel, and (4) monitor the effect of diazepam rectal gel and know when to seek professional medical help."

Given the complexity and knowledge required to safely administer this medication CCM has serious concerns regarding the level and cost of training that would provide the needed expertise to safely administer this medication in an emergency medical situation.

CCM urges the committee to take no action on **HB 6522**.



If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr., Senior Legislative Associate for CCM
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